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SCIENCE

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THE ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH[1]

BEFORE delivering my paper I wish to confess that I find myself in a somewhat unpleasant predicament, for when I began it and even after sending its title to Professor Allee I was of the opinion that research might, perhaps, be amenable to organization, but after thinking the matter over I was compelled to reverse my opinion, with the result that what I shall say may strike some of you as painfully reactionary. Still I encouraged myself with the reflection that many others have written papers with misleading titles and that I might perhaps put much of the blame for the results on my confrères of Section F for conferring so signal an honor as its chairmanship on one of its tired old bisons from the taxonomic menagerie instead of on one of its fresh, young bulls from the Mendelian byre. I might say also, in further justification of myself, that I at least selected the most fashionable and exalted topic I could find, for you must all have observed that at the present time no word occurs with greater frequency and resonance in serious discourse than "organization." Everybody is so busy organizing something or inciting some one to organize something that the word's subtly concealed connotations of control and regulation appear to be overlooked. The purpose of organization is instrumental, as is shown by the derivation of the word, from "organon," a tool, or implement, which is

[1] Address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of Section F—Zoological Sciences—American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, 1920.